

REMARKS

In response to the non-final office action of December 14, 2006, applicants ask that all claims be allowed in view of the amendment to the claims and the following remarks. Claims 1, 3-14, 17-28, and 31-34 are currently pending, of which claims 1, 7, 14, 28, and 34 are independent. Claims 1, 4-7, 10-14, 17, 18, 20-24, 28, and 31-34 have been amended and claims 2, 15, 16, 29, and 30 have been cancelled. Support for these amendments may be found in the application at, for example, page 35, line 20 through page 38, line 14 referring to Fig. 9 and originally filed claims 2, 15, 16, 29, and 30. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Harper and Examiner Ali for the courtesy extended to Applicants' representatives during the personal interview on March 7, 2007. This reply reflects the substance of the interview.

Claims 1-13 and 28-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter for reciting a program product tangibly embodied in "an information carrier," which may include "a propagated signal." Independent claims 1, 7, and 28 have been amended to recite "a program product tangibly embodied in a storage medium." Applicants submit that the amendments to claims 1, 7, and 28 address all of the concerns raised by the Examiner. Therefore, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-13 and 28-33.

Claims 1-34 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Nwabueze (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0144174) in view of Obata (U.S. Patent No. 6,272,478). Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because neither Nwabueze, Obata, nor any proper combination of the two, describes or suggests all of the features of independent claims 1, 7, 14, 28, and 34, as described below.

As amended, independent claim 1 recites a graphical user interface that includes a process list display and a data analysis display. The process list display is configured to display identifications of data analysis processes and receive user input selecting an entry of an identification of a data analysis process. The data analysis display is configured to display representations of sub-processes included in the data analysis process identified by the selected

entry and display connections between the displayed sub-processes. The connections indicate a sequence with which the displayed sub-processes are performed when performing the data analysis process. The displayed representations of sub-processes include a representation of a data mining sub-process for creating a data attribute by performing an analytical process on data from an analytical processing data source and a representation of at least one of (1) an extraction sub-process for extracting data from a first transactional data source, (2) a transformation sub-process for transforming the extracted data from a data format used by the first transactional data source to a data format used for analytical processing, and (3) a loading sub-process for loading data into the analytical processing data source. The displayed representations of sub-processes also include a representation of a deployment sub-process for storing the created data attribute in one of the first transactional data source, a second transactional data source other than the first transactional data source, or a second analytical data source used for analytical processing.

Neither Nwabueze, Obata, nor any proper combination of the two, describes or suggests many of the features recited in amended independent claim 1. For example, neither Nwabueze, Obata, nor any proper combination of the two, describes or suggests a data analysis display configured to display representations of sub-processes included in the data analysis process identified by the selected entry, where the displayed representations of sub-processes include a representation of a deployment sub-process for storing the created data attribute in one of the first transactional data source, a second transactional data source other than the first transactional data source, or a second analytical data source used for analytical processing, as recited in amended independent claim 1.

In contrast, Nwabueze describes a system configured to extract, organize, format, and present data for business intelligence purposes. See Nwabueze at paragraph [0043]. As shown in Fig. 2, the system acquires data from multiple sources, performs various processing operations on the data, and displays the processed data to a customer. See Nwabueze at paragraphs [0048]-[0056]. Nwabueze, however, does not display representations of sub-processes included in a data analysis process, much less a representation of a deployment sub-process for storing a created data attribute in one of a first transactional data source, a second transactional data source

other than the first transactional data source, or a second analytical data source used for analytical processing. Instead, Nwabueze is directed to displaying processed data rather than a representation of sub-processes included in a data analysis process. Therefore, Nwabueze fails to describe or suggest a data analysis display configured to display representations of sub-processes included in the data analysis process identified by the selected entry, where the displayed representations of sub-processes include a representation of a deployment sub-process for storing the created data attribute in one of the first transactional data source, a second transactional data source other than the first transactional data source, or a second analytical data source used for analytical processing, as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Obata does not remedy Nwabueze's failure. Specifically, Obata describes a data mining apparatus that includes an association rule generator. See Obata at col. 4, lines 19-21. The association rule generator analyzes data in a database to form an association rule between data items existing in the data base (e.g., a "bread→milk" association rule indicates that customers who buy bread tend to buy milk at the same time). See Obata at col. 4, lines 21-55. The association rule may be displayed and various kinds of information may be stored in relation to the association rule. See Obata at col. 4, lines 55-57 and col. 5, lines 40-44. As such, Obata displays and stores information associated with relationships between existing items in a database and does not display representations of sub-processes included in a data analysis process. Thus, Obata fails to describe or suggest a data analysis display configured to display representations of sub-processes included in the data analysis process identified by the selected entry, where the displayed representations of sub-processes include a representation of a deployment sub-process for storing the created data attribute in one of the first transactional data source, a second transactional data source other than the first transactional data source, or a second analytical data source used for analytical processing, as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Accordingly, Nwabueze, Obata, or any proper combination of the two, does not describe or suggest a data analysis display configured to display representations of sub-processes included in the data analysis process identified by the selected entry, where the displayed representations

of sub-processes include a representation of a deployment sub-process for storing the created data attribute in one of the first transactional data source, a second transactional data source other than the first transactional data source, or a second analytical data source used for analytical processing, as recited in amended independent claim 1. Therefore, for at least these reasons, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 3-6.

Independent claims 14, 28, and 34, as amended, each recite, inter alia, receiving (claim 14) or computer program product (claim 28) or processor (claim 34) configured to receive multiple sub-process user inputs, each sub-process user input identifying a sub-process associated with the data analysis process, where at least one of the identified sub-processes is a deployment sub-process for storing a data attribute created in another of the identified sub-processes in one of the first transactional data source, a second transactional data source other than the first transactional data source, or a second analytical data source used for analytical processing. As described above, neither Nwabueze, Obata, nor any proper combination of the two, describes or suggests a data analysis display configured to display representations of sub-processes included in the data analysis process identified by the selected entry, where the displayed representations of sub-processes include a representation of a deployment sub-process for storing the created data attribute in one of the first transactional data source, a second transactional data source other than the first transactional data source, or a second analytical data source used for analytical processing. Therefore, Nwabueze, Obata, or any proper combination of the two, also fails to describe or suggest receipt of multiple sub-process user inputs, each sub-process user input identifying a sub-process associated with the data analysis process, where at least one of the identified sub-processes is a deployment sub-process for storing a data attribute created in another of the identified sub-processes in one of the first transactional data source, a second transactional data source other than the first transactional data source, or a second analytical data source used for analytical processing. For at least these reasons, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 14,

28, and 34 and claims 17-27 that depend from claim 14 and claims 31-33 that depend from claim 28.

Independent claim 7 recites, inter alia, a common data display configured to receive user input indicating an entry of selected meta-data elements to be used in the data analysis process wherein each meta-data element is associated with a corresponding data element in the data source and with a corresponding data element in the analytical processing data source.

Neither Nwabueze, Obata, nor any proper combination of the two, describes or suggests a common data display configured to receive user input indicating an entry of selected meta-data elements to be used in the data analysis process wherein each meta-data element is associated with a corresponding data element in the data source and with a corresponding data element in the analytical processing data source, as recited in amended independent claim 7.

In particular, the Office Action indicates that Nwabueze does not explicitly describe a common data display for receiving an entry of selected meta-data elements to be used in the data analysis process wherein each meta-data element is associated with a corresponding data element in the data source and with a corresponding data element in the analytical processing data source. See Office Action of December 14, 2006 at page 6. For this feature, the Office Action relies on Obata.

As described above, Obata describes a data mining apparatus that generates association rules between data items existing in a database. Although the association rules may be displayed and various kinds of information may be stored in relation to the association rules, Obata does not describe or suggest receiving user input indicating an entry of selected meta-data elements to be used in a data analysis process. Nor does Obata describe or suggest that each meta-data element is associated with a corresponding data element in a data source and with a corresponding data element in an analytical processing data source. As such, Obata fails to describe or suggest a common data display configured to receive user input indicating an entry of selected meta-data elements to be used in the data analysis process wherein each meta-data element is associated with a corresponding data element in the data source and with a

corresponding data element in the analytical processing data source, as recited in amended independent claim 7.

Accordingly, Nwabueze, Obata, or any proper combination of the two, does not describe or suggest a common data display configured to receive user input indicating an entry of selected meta-data elements to be used in the data analysis process wherein each meta-data element is associated with a corresponding data element in the data source and with a corresponding data element in the analytical processing data source, as recited in amended independent claim 7. Therefore, for at least these reasons, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 7 and its dependent claims 8-13.

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this reply should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this reply, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

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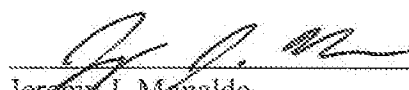
Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

No fee is believed to be due. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

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